

From US Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA)
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We would like to share with you a few medical logistics tools for assisting you in providing care while on deployment to central/southwest Asia. Because we have limited space on shelves and in cold chain management storage systems, we are trying hard to standardize items, in order to reduce redundancies and ensure support items and parts are available. This also greatly improves our responsiveness to you, the customer, because we now have the space to keep those items most critical to you in caring for your patients. Instead of keeping 10 different package sizes of an item, we agree to stock the most common 1-2 items, increasing their quantities on hand. It streamlines the logistics management process and permits us to more quickly fill your order with what we have.

One of the first areas standardized was a joint deployment formulary (JDF), which was developed based on recommendations from theater. It continues to be reviewed and updated again based on recommendations from theater. Medications listed on the JDF are stored in theater. You can order something not on the formulary, but the delivery time will be more uncertain. Anyone can access the JDF on the Defense Medical Standardization Board's (DMSB) website: www.dmsb.army.mil. Once opened, click on "products, procedures, links" on the left side of the panel. Then click on "pharmaceutical joint deployment formulary." It is updated roughly every other month by a tri-service panel of each of the services' pharmacy consultants and a group of physicians and pharmacists at the Pharmacoeconomic Center.

The other way to make your life easier is to order supplies and equipment contained in the US Army Medical Materiel Center-Southwest Asia (USAMMC-SWA) stockage list. It is available from the med supply units in theater and will tell you exactly which items are stocked in theater. The national stock number (NSN) listed with each item is a 13-digit number unique to each item. The first four numbers identify what federal supply class (FSC) the item belongs in. For example, meds intended for human use are classified 6505, while meds intended for veterinary use are being transitioned to 6509. To ensure that you have the correct NSN and nomenclature (name) for what you want to order, you may reference it in the unit data repository (UDR), but that information is always somewhat dated. A better way to check the information is through the Medical Services Information Logistics Systems (MEDSILS). MEDSILS is a database you can access through the USAMMA website at: www.usamma.army.mil. Once there, click [MEDSILS](#) in the left margin. Then click on any of the blue-highlighted [MEDSILS](#) words on the intro page. This will take you to the database where you can search by NSN (NIIN), part number, or nomenclature. If searching by NSN, use only the last 9 digits of the NSN and delete the dashes. The database can tell you the characteristics, price, unit of issue, manufacturer (cage code – upper left corner), and part number, support items (in some cases), and many among other things. We have also attached photos to many of the product pages to help the customer identify each item. It's a slow process, but we're making progress. If someone would like to help by submitting photos, please contact me.

We hope these tools help you feel more comfortable and confident about the medical logistics system. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.